

UPDATE

Update

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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

SINCE OPENING DAY, September 16 when the Hospital Center admitted its first patients, through September 26:

- * 131 admissions were recorded;
- * the Emergency Room treated a total of 505 patients, 56 of whom were admitted for further treatment;
- * 78 surgical procedures were performed (the first was done on Wednesday, September 18);
- * patient census had reached 90.

During the first week, 73 beds were opened, including 21 special care beds. Another 32-bed unit was opened the second week. The third week will see 8 additional Progressive Care beds opened as well as an additional 32-bed medical-surgical unit.

THE FIRST WEEKS were not without the usual "shakedown" problems, but every effort was made daily to adjust and correct. Some unforeseen equipment and supply problems were encountered due to the inability of suppliers to meet scheduled delivery dates. That, however, is a nationwide problem at this particular time and not ours alone.

What was unique is the fact that here at the Hospital Center, new people were working together for the first time with new systems and procedures in new and unfamiliar surroundings. Under those circumstances, it can be reported that things have been going well. At the present time, there are some 400 people aboard. And we want to thank the entire staff for their cooperation and understanding ... particularly those who put in so many extra hours on their own time to help minimize the problems.

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MEDICAL STAFF NOTES

SORRY, DOCTOR. If you called to admit a patient to the Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center and were referred to one of the other hospitals, it wasn't because we couldn't accommodate your patient. It's part of the Allocation of Services Program ... and we're working to make it work.

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HOSPITAL CENTER TOURS

OVER 6,000 PERSONS toured the Hospital Center in the two-week period prior to opening, either in groups or on the open house days. Many thanks to our Women's Auxiliary Volunteers for their long and capable hours of service as tour guides.

UNSCHEDULED TOURS have been curtailed until after October 1. We've had many calls and will set up a program to accommodate those who were unable to visit during the pre-opening tour period.

10/1/74

GETTING TO KNOW THE SYSTEM

This is the ninth in a series of articles designed to acquaint all hospital personnel with some of the programs, practices and procedures under which the Hospital Center operates as well as those programs which involve participation by all three hospitals. The subject for this issue is ...

UTILIZATION REVIEW AND DISCHARGE PLANNING

This new concept, a combined and coordinated program of Utilization Review and Discharge Planning, is in full operation at the Hospital Center. Its purpose is to insure the effective and appropriate high quality of care and services within the hospital setting.

Detailed explanations and copies of the hospital's Utilization Review Plan and Concurrent In-House Utilization Review Program have been issued to the Medical Staff. In addition, flow sheets indicating Utilization Review activity on an on-going basis have been prepared and are available.

An upcoming program to be introduced in the near future is the Rotating Review Physicians' System which will aid the Utilization Review Committee, Coordinator and Utilization Review process and will also be of educational value to the Medical Staff. UR forms have already been initiated on patients' chart records with notice from the physicians. These forms must be completed by the attending physician at the appropriate time in order for the hospital to remain in compliance with Title 18 and Title 19. It is most important that a diagnosis (or at least an impression of) be identified on admission for all patients. If a patient is to be coded accurately per diagnosis and receive an assignment of length of stay (LOS) that is to the advantage of patient and physician and insures the appropriate level of care ... a detailed diagnostic account on the part of the attending physician is essential. The cooperation of the Medical Staff is needed and requested.

The purpose of Discharge Planning is to insure that each patient has a planned program for continuing care and/or follow-up. It includes a variety of services ... Social Service, Home Care, Public Health Nursing, Rehabilitation, Transportation, Financial Assistance, Guidance ... whatever may be necessary to meet the individual patient's needs. Planning involves the use of a wide variety of community resources, including the patient's own home. It is designed to project both short-term and long-term needs and goals.

Questions or comments should be directed to MaryK Samios, director of the program, whose office is directly across from Medical Records. Telephone numbers are 821-3107 and 821-3108.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

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Dr. Michael J. Stamatakos has been appointed Chief of Radiology at the Hospital Center. He will continue to head the Radiology Department at Sacred Heart Hospital where he is also director of the Radiology Residency Program and director of the School of X-Ray Technology.

Dr. Michael H. Geller, Radiologist from Allentown Hospital, joined our staff last month. He has his MD from New York Medical College and served his internship at the Lenox Hill Hospital, N.Y. He took a residency in radiology at St. Luke's in N.Y. and in angiography at Graduate Hospital University of Pennsylvania. He also served as an instructor in radiology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Norine I. Shafer, R.N. has been named Director of Volunteers. Mrs. Shafer was associated for 13 years with the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, where she served as director of prevention programs and director of volunteers.

FOOD SERVICE

REMINDER TO EMPLOYEES. If you're not using Coupon Books in the Hospital Center dining room, you're passing up a bargain. Purchase of a book automatically entitles you to a 25% saving over posted prices (plus tax, of course). For example, a cup of coffee is 15¢ for cash customers, 11¢ for coupon customers ... 3 slices of bacon is 45¢ cash, only 34¢ in coupons ... and a tuna salad sandwich goes for 55¢ cash, only 41¢ for coupon uses. Buy a book ... and save!

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